

## **University Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Nov 24, 2025**

### **Call to Order**

Senate President John Donnellan called the meeting to order.

### **Zoom Voting Test**

Conducted by Senate Secretary Moitrayee Chatterjee.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda for November 24, 2025.

Moved by Rubina Vohra, Seconded by Unspecified (voice vote). Motion carried.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of October 27, 2025.

Moved by Joyce Wright. Seconded by Marilyn Ettinger. Motion carried.

### **President's Report**

Gratitude expressed to faculty, staff, students, adjuncts, Local 1839, and administration.

Recognition of guests joining the meeting Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, SVP of Administration at Kean U and A.C.E Fellow assigned to Kean U Dr. Salvador Mena, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Experience at Rutgers – New Brunswick

Update on SAC meeting (Nov 20) and motions related to NJCU–Kean integration.

### **Motions and Actions**

Motion 1: Pause 30-Day Automatic Approval in CIM Workflow. This motion applies to all items in the CIM workflow, including curriculum changes.

Original request: Pause until Dec 15, 2025; amended to June 30, 2026.

Moved by John Laski. Seconded by Venessa Garcia.

Discussion: Clarification provided by Scott O'Connor that the motion still allows faculty to submit proposals, and committees may review and approve them, and the pause only removes automatic approval.

Result: Motion carried.

## **Motion 2: Written Disclosure of Kean Approval Process**

Original deadline: Dec 1, 2025.

Action: Postponed until shared service agreements are finalized.

Moved by John Laski, seconded by Hanae Haouari. Motion carried.

## **Motion 3: Senate Representation on Integration Working Groups**

Confirmed by President Acebo as expected and required.

Result: Approved by consensus.

## **Academic Standards Committee Motion**

Proposal: Include winter session in GPA review; limit credits for students on probation; require dean/provost override.

Result: Motion failed (integration with Kean policies anticipated).

## **Faculty Concerns**

Sabbaticals: NJCU will not award sabbaticals for AY 2026–27; post-merger criteria TBD under Kean policies.

Discussion: Seniority implications raised; President Acebo indicated likely compromise and clarity by early spring.

## **Task Force on Mental Health and Counseling**

Motion: Create task force to support faculty, staff, and students during transition.

Moved by John Donnellan, seconded by Joyce Wright.

Amendment: Include union representation (moved by William Calathes; passed unanimously).

Volunteers: Bill Calathes, Martha Mooke, Sai Jambunathan, Meriem Bendaoud.

The administration will designate a representative.

## **Senate Structure Post-Merger**

Initial outreach to Kean Provost; meeting scheduled Dec 15.

Comparative insights from Montclair–Bloomfield merger shared.

## **Program Reviews**

Clarification: Continue program reviews; required for Middle States and strategic positioning.

### **Committee Membership Updates**

Faculty & Professional Staff Affairs: Michael O'Neill approved.

Vacancies remain in Elections, Graduate Studies, Planning & Budget committees.

### **Announcements**

Congratulations to Martha Mooke nominated for Best New Age Ambient Album (Grammy category).

Music Among Books – Dec 3, 2025, Greeney Library.

AFT 1839 Scholarships – \$1,000 each; deadline Jan 9, 2026.

Joe Riotta Award nominations extended to Dec 1, 2025.

### **President Acebo's Q&A and Update**

Addressed concerns on:

Legislative bill and merger fairness.

Fiscal status: Operating deficit reduced from \$20M (2022) to \$6–8M; Moody's and Fitch upgrades.

Timeline for notices: Management notices by Dec or early Jan; program closure announcements precede personnel notices.

Voluntary separation packages are forthcoming.

Emphasized transparency, dignity, and shared governance during transition.

### **Motion of Appreciation**

Motion: Express thanks and support for President Acebo and his team.

Moved by Joe Moskowitz, seconded by William Calathes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Middle States Update**

Presented by Scott O'Connor and Ruth Ortiz.

Self-study continues; critical for accreditation and Title IV eligibility.

Draft chapters under review; campus feedback in spring.

**Graduate Studies Committee Proposal**

Recompute GPA for retaken courses (limit under discussion).

Action: Motion tabled due to time constraints.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by,

Moitrayee Chatterjee, PhD

NJCU Senate Secretary